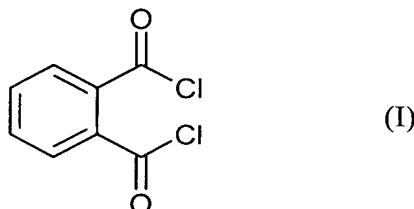
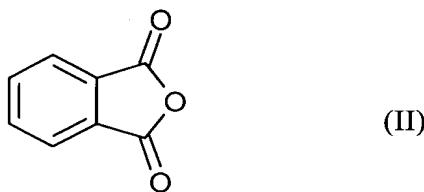


What is claimed is:

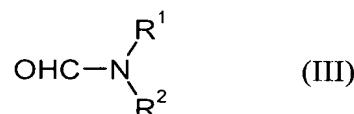
1. A process for preparing phthaloyl chloride of the formula (I)



in which phthalic anhydride of the formula (II)



10 is reacted with phosgene in the presence of an N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III)



in which

15 R¹ and R² are each independently straight-chain or branched alkyl,

and in the presence of an inert diluent at temperatures between 20°C and 150°C,

20 characterized in that the amounts of phosgene and of the N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III) used are each independently metered in continuously or semicontinuously.

2. The process as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III) is metered in continuously.
- 5 3. The process as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III) is metered in semicontinuously.
4. The process as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the phosgene is metered in continuously.
- 10 5. The process as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the phosgene is metered in semicontinuously.